

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau



FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

February 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.	C/Ops	21 Mar	B	
2.				
3.	C/E&PS	22 Mar	I	
4.	DD/FBIS	3/22	C	
5.	DD/FBIS			
6.				
7.	PO/RA	3/23	Om	
8.	SA/CD	3/23	at 6/2	
9.	3/FBIS DC/Ops 7		R	
10.	C/AS	31 Mar	CD	
11.	C/B&F/AS			
12.				
13.				
14.	C/AG	1/4		
15.	Exec. Reg.			

FORM 1-79

610

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

3 March 1988
FEIS-5607-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report — Seoul Bureau — February 1988

I. GENERAL

A. The first peaceful transfer of power in the 40-year history of the Republic of Korea occurred on 25 February, with No Tae-u taking the oath of office in the Republic's 13th presidential inauguration. Outgoing President Chun Tu-hwan, U.S. Treasury Secretary Baker, and Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita were among a host of dignitaries on hand to witness the event. On the eve of the inauguration five students occupied the USIS building in Seoul, breaking windows, hurling what they claimed to be fire bombs, and calling for the U.S. to get out of Korea. An incendiary device was also planted in the USIS center in Kwangju on the same day, but it failed to explode. The inauguration was also marked by protests in Seoul, Kwangju, and other cities, but the demonstrations did not garner noticeable support from the public at large.

B. The value of the won has appreciated by 3.9 percent in the first two months of the year, closing out the month at a rate of 762 won to the dollar. Newspapers estimate that at this rate the won will appreciate by 24 percent in 1988. Treasury Secretary Baker's visit to the Republic to attend the presidential inauguration and his subsequent talks with the Republic's finance minister provided newspapers with the occasion to criticize U.S. trade pressure on Korea, in particular pressure for the appreciation of the won.

C. [] has accepted the Bureau's offer to fill the newly-created tenth Korean monitorial position and will begin processing for his entry on duty.

STAT

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. In a surprise move, opposition leader Kim Yong-sam announced his resignation from the Reunification Democratic Party presidency on 8 February, the fourth time he has made the same or similar announcements. Due to the alertness of the monitors, the Bureau was able to catch the announcement from an early-morning television newscast not normally on coverage. By month's end Kim Yong-sam was edging back toward de facto leadership of the party and had met with Kim Tae-chung for talks on a merger of the two largest opposition parties for the coming National Assembly elections.

-2-

2. With the opposition camp getting its house in order, there has been some progress in the interparty talks on South Korea's National Assembly elections. Party leaders anticipate that the elections will be held in mid-April, although there are still a number of unresolved differences on the constituency format.

3. On 22 February Pyongyang reported a WPK Political Bureau meeting ostensibly held to prepare for the 40th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK. A letter to party members adopted at the meeting together with a number of personnel changes, including the replacement of KPA general staff chief O Kuk-yol by Choe Kwan², made known during the month suggest an ongoing debate in the North Korean leadership. However, AG detected "no significant change" in North Korean treatment of Kim Chong-il's 46th birthday on 16 February and a statement issued after the South failed to respond to a proposed 19 February meeting at Panmunjom indicated that the North would continue to press for talks concerning a North-South conference. North Korean heir apparent Kim Chong-il, said to be the mastermind behind the bombing of KAL 858, has not been seen in public since his meeting with the diplomatic corps on 31 December 1987. Embassy consumers, including the Ambassador, are following the events with keen interest.

4. The North's clandestine Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea expanded its broadcast schedule by 1 hour. The Bureau is now monitoring 4 hours of VNS programming, but interference still limits useful coverage to 2-3 times a week.

5. Most program summaries prepared by the Korean Unit for wirefiling are now done on computer diskette. As well, the running summary and fyi's done for No Tae-u's inaugural address were prepared on diskette. Use of the Bureau's stand alone computers in both cases has greatly expedited handling and processing and expanded the already well-established "sneaker net."

6. Thanks to the efforts of Okinawa Bureau and the U.S. Consulate in Shenyang, the Bureau will be able to continue receiving TIANJIN RIBAO and JILIN RIBAO. Okinawa was able to put in an order for TIANJIN RIBAO through the China Bookstore in Fukuoka and the Consulate was able to put in a local subscription for JILIN RIBAO. Hong Kong Bureau came through with a subscription to the new economic paper HEILONGJIANG JINGJI BAO for the Bureau as well.

B. Communications

Three more international direct dial modem tests were conducted with Okinawa Bureau during the month. The tests conducted on 10 and 23 February using the Racal modem were both unsuccessful, but the test conducted on 24 February using the Concord modem was partially successful. The Bureau received two messages and successfully sent one out of four messages using the Xmodem protocol. Further testing will be conducted following Okinawa's replacement of faulty software.

-3-

C. Lateral Services

1. The Bureau relayed a request for Chinese reaction to the announcement of the annual "Team Spirit" exercise from the Embassy political section to Hong Kong and Okinawa Bureaus.

2. Lt. Col. Chellis, chief of the Intelligence Support Element, called the Bureau to request drop copies of the Bureau file from North Korean media. FBIS Liaison was informed and the consumer was added to the appropriate lateral service package.

D. Technical

1. The Bureau received the following equipment from Headquarters:

10 coaxial switches - model 7108-DR-5v matrix system s/n 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39; 1 asynchronous I/O board for Watkins-Johnson 8718 receiver, type 796037; 1 IF interface board for Watkins-Johnson 8718 receiver, type 794275-1

2. The Bureau sent the following equipment to Headquarters for replacement or repair:

1 monochrome and printer adapter, s/n 310214, for Victor VFCII computer.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Korean Unit Chief [] is still at home recuperating from stomach surgery.

STAT

2. New Korean monitor [] began work at the Bureau on 3 February.

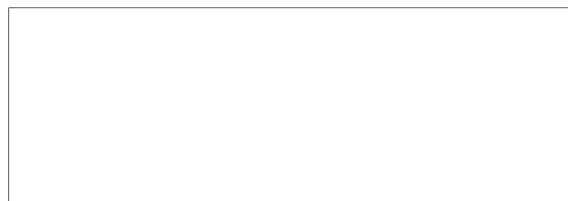
STAT

-4-

IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Junior editor [redacted] successfully completed his test for a black belt in Taekwondo on 14 February. Harry brought back a videotape of the test that demonstrated his prowess.

STAT



Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment:
Monthly Production Report

STAT

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

Seoul Bureau Production Report for Feb 1988

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	664070
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	136140
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1455

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13685.00 min	5510.00 min	127.69 min
III. OUTPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (publishable words per month)			

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	15520
---	-------

CHINA

Beijing International Service in Korean	830
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	-
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	8060
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	15490
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	2850
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	11490
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	8100
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	-
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	8680
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese	31970
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese	37800
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in Chinese	3050
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese	13800
Shenyang DONGBEI JINGJI BAO in Chinese	5000
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese	7920
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese	18500
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO IN Chinese	1000

-2-

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
KOREA (NORTH)			
Pyongyang in Korean to South Korea in Korean	-		
Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	119360		
Pyongyang Television Service in Korean	-		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		128320	
Pyongyang KULLOJA in korean			-
Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean			800
KOREA (SOUTH)			
Seoul Christian Broadcasting System Network in korean	-		
Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	4880		
Seoul MBC Network in Korean	320		
Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean	320		
Seoul Television Service in Korean	15650		
Seoul YONHAP in English	32610		
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			6100
Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean			5000
Seoul Editorial Report on ROK Media in Korean			2500
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			600
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			-
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			750
Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean			-
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			60140
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			83710
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			4750
Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean			7720
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow International Service in Korean	800		